

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
April 23, 2003**

Diana Webb (Office of the Associate Director for Operations, LANL) found the Wildfire 2003 public meeting to be very positive and well received.

Fran Talley (Public Affairs Office, LANL) estimated that 120 people attended the Wildfire 2003 public meeting. There were 30 presenters, including the posters, demonstrations and oral presentations. The meeting was broadcast on the Laboratory network, the local television station, and the local radio station. Fran also announced that there will be several fire related displays and demonstrations at Safety Days, which will be conducted in downtown Los Alamos on June 26.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) announced that there are 900 Los Alamos County participants in the Defensible Space Project. With the assumption that 100 percent of the defensible space work is completed during the tenure of this project, Susan estimates that continued maintenance at the treated properties will have to be initiated within five years.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that five small fires were suppressed during the past week. At these fires, it was observed that the 1000-hour fuels were very dry and totally consumed by the fires. However, the duff was moist and did not burn as completely.

Dean Clark (Bandelier National Monument) concurred that the 1000-hour fuel moistures are presently between five and ten percent. Dean also has observed that the boundary between Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve has high levels of fuels.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) will attend the New Mexico Geographic Information Council Spring Meeting on April 25 and speak on drought, tree mortality and fire hazards in the piñon-juniper woodlands.

Todd Haagenstad (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the East Jemez Resource Council Meeting will be held on May 1, in the Ecology Group conference room.

Patrick McCarthy (The Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Chapter), in partnership with the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Santa Fe National Forest, has submitted a proposal for Collaborative Restoration Program funds for fuels reduction and ecological restoration treatments on 600 acres of federal lands at the wildland-urban interface. Also, The Nature Conservancy has compiled two reports, with a lot of help from federal, state, tribal and local agencies, for the Fire Learning Network: (1) barriers to large-scale fuels reduction, and (2) agency priorities and plans for fuels treatment over 2003-2005 (including maps). Contact Patrick McCarthy at pmccarthy@tnc.org or 505-988-1542 x217 or see <http://tnc-ecomangement.org/fire> for copies of the reports. In a related

activity, federal fire program managers are interested in using a new cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy to develop collaborative interagency fire management plans at several landscapes across the country. Patrick is requesting input from the Santa Fe National Forest, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bandelier National Monument, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Los Alamos County and other local agencies to determine if this kind of project would be mutually beneficial. Please contact Patrick to share your thoughts on this idea.

Manny L,Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported through the LANL Fire Danger Estimate notification system that the fire danger levels at LANL are very high. The 1-hour and 10-hour fuel moistures are from 4 percent to 6 percent. The 1000-hour fuel moistures range from 6 percent to 10 percent.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the University of Arizona,s Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, reports through its April 2003 information packet that fire danger is expected to be above normal across southeastern Arizona and southern New Mexico, especially on mid-level slopes and grasslands. Although short-term drought conditions have ameliorated for most of the southwest, this drought is not over. Water supply, streamflow and soil moisture will continue to be of concern for the foreseeable future. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, May 7, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Upstairs Conference Room. The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.